



HAWAII MARINE D SECTION

# Hawaii MARINE ON POINT

FEBRUARY 25, 2005



## close Inspection

Cadet Sgt. Sara Tellio, 10th grader from Castle High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program, stands with other cadets for inspection by Marines from Headquarters Battalion.

## Castle's JROTC members get sized up by the 'real deal'

**Story and Photos By  
Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**A**h-ten-shion!!! After that hearing that, 107 Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets snapped to position and mentally prepared themselves for a real Marine Corps uniform inspection.



**Hands are inspected for cleanliness during the uniform inspection.**

experience as he is in the delayed entry program for the Marine Corps.

"It has always been my life-long dream to become a United States Marine, and now I'll get to do that," said the Hilo, Hawaii native. "I want to become the 'best of the best,' and I'll get to do that when I go to boot camp in July."

Brigoli said he thinks he has a great advantage with his experience and knowledge he's gained since being in the JROTC program.

"I know it's going to be really tough in boot camp, but I'm not worried about it at all," said the 18-year-old. "I've learned so much through the years in this program. I know I'm getting a good head start at it."

The cadets receive important uniform inspections every year by real Marines, said Ah Chick. One year, K-Bay Marines conducted the inspections, while the following year, Marines from 12th Marine Corps District came out to inspect. Everything from ribbon placement to trouser length and the cadets' personal hygiene were subject to inspection during the day. Cadets were even tested to find out how much they knew about the Marine Corps.

"I think it went really well, overall," said Ah Chick. "We have a lot of new kids this year and their only problem is just, pretty much, lack of experience right now."

Ah Chick said the cadets' participation in the inspection was great because all of them are extremely committed to the program. He also felt a debt of gratitude toward the Marines who took time from their busy schedules to inspect the cadets.

"We just can't extend enough thanks to all of the support from Kaneohe Bay," said Ah Chick. "We are so grateful for their continuous support throughout the years."



Cadet Cpl. Rodney Ochimas, sophomore, assists Sgt. Chezarae Reyna, ammunition technician, Headquarters Battalion, during the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps uniform inspection at Castle High School, Feb. 17.

Below — Sgt. Dain Cole, barracks manager, Headquarters Battalion, checks for proper ribbon placement on a cadet during the inspection.



**Everything on the cadets of the Marine Corps JROTC, from ribbon placement to trouser length, was inspected.**



The 16-year-old Kaneohe native has been in the Marine Corps JROTC program for three years now and is responsible for the 25 cadets who are in her squad.

"As a platoon commander, I'm being held to a higher standard by everyone," said Kawai. "But I love it because it forces me to both gain and earn respect from others and it's interesting to be able to learn so much about the military."

The Marine Corps JROTC has only existed on Oahu since 1995, and it is the only Marine Corps JROTC program in the entire state of Hawaii, said retired Sgt. Maj. John Ah Chick, the senior Marine instructor and founder of the Hawaii program.

Ah Chick retired from the Marine Corps in 1983. In 1984, he began working at the Navy JROTC program at Radford High school near Pearl Harbor before beginning the Marine program.

"Even after retiring from the Marine Corps, I wanted to always remain involved with the military, and especially with the Marines," said the Kailua, Hawaii native. "I've always liked working with people, and I love getting the opportunity to share my experiences with high school kids."

The JROTC program is designed to teach leadership, public service, military subjects, basic knowledge, color guard, drill, reconnaissance, and a variety of other things.

"Basically, everything that is available in the Marine Corps, we try to implement into the program," said Ah Chick. "We even compete in drill meets with other JROTC programs, along with marching in parades and taking part in training activities at Bellows and on K-Bay."

Cadet 2nd Lt. Lambert Brigoli, a senior at Castle High School, has been in the Marine Corps JROTC program here for four years, and is currently awaiting his real boot camp